



San Diego Canyonlands

◆ 3552 Bancroft Street San Diego, CA 92104 ◆ 619-284-9399 ◆

Contact: Eric Bowlby, Executive Director/Program Manager
Phone: 619-284-9399, E-mail: eric@sdcanyonlands.org
Federal Employer Tax ID# 26-2237918

San Diego Canyonlands' is a non-profit organization whose mission is to *promote, protect and restore the natural habitats in San Diego County canyons and creeks by fostering education and ongoing community involvement in stewardship and advocacy, and by collaborating with other organizations.*

Here is a brief summary of our programs that our staff has been running for over ten years.

1) COMMUNITY EDUCATION and ORGANIZING

San Diego Canyonlands works to engage residents into the volunteer stewardship of local urban canyons or creeks through the development of neighborhood-based “friends groups” throughout San Diego County. We conduct educational guided tours of neighborhood canyons/creeks to start up *friends groups* that will “adopt” and routinely maintain these natural open spaces. Events include information on: habitat loss, trash and other threats, wildlife and endangered species, and the role of canyon wetlands and vegetation in capturing and filtering polluted urban storm-water run-off. We distribute handouts on habitat restoration techniques, species lists, and important contacts for reporting problems such as sewer leaks, erosion, illegal dumping, etc.

2) YOUTH-ORIENTED PROGRAMS

Through collaborations with other non-profits and youth groups we utilize neighborhood canyons as “*Nature Classrooms*” connecting local youth to nature, providing nature experiences and cutting edge environment-based education. We foster awareness, appreciation and an ethic of stewardship for the important natural resources in the canyons through our educational tours, cleanups, and hands-on habitat restoration projects. Kids love to revisit the canyons to nurture and watch the native plants grow.



Youth weeding at Swan Canyon in City Heights

3) CANYON ENHANCEMENT PLANNING is an important and relatively new program for San Diego Canyonlands (SDCL). SDCL is creating a Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide that will be a resource to cut time, cost and red tape for comprehensive canyon-enhancement plans for dozens of canyons throughout the city of San Diego and eventually hundreds throughout the county. SDCL has established a Canyon Enhancement Planning Committee to create a guide for community stakeholders that facilitates a systems approach for integrating our natural open spaces within the fabric of the urban environment. The committee will promote visual and physical canyon access, connections into communities, restoration, conservation, environment-based education, and ecologically sensitive recreation.

Components of the Canyon Enhancement Planning Guide

- Guidelines and protocol for canyon enhancement
- Maps, Directory of Resources
- Internship program
- Existing Conditions Analysis & Opportunities Assessment
- Youth and Nature Opportunities
- Assembling a Stakeholder's Group
- Enhancement Opportunities Analysis
- Stakeholder Action Plan
- Building Local Support & Friends Group Development, Civic and Planning Groups
- Enhancement Approval Process
- Evaluating Improvements



Specific Objectives

- Open space preservation
- Safer, cleaner open space for residents and youth
- Healthier canyon habitat for wildlife
- Stronger communities and sense of place

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Bowlby". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Eric Bowlby
Executive Director
San Diego Canyonlands
Cell Phone: 619-204-0753
eric@sdcanyonlands.org
www.sdcanyonlands.org